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Reply to: Orlando, Florida

VAC:yep

August 15, 2005

Colonel Christopher A. Knight
Director, Florida Highway Patrol
Neil Kirkman Building
2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: United States of America v. Guillermo Cabrera-Torres, et. al
District Court Case Number: 5:05-cr-12-Oc-10GRJ
Florida Highway Patrol Case Number: FHPC05OFF016474

Dear Colonel Knight:

I write to commend Florida Highway Patrol Troopers Jason C. Lemery and James D. Davis, who are currently assigned to the Contraband Interdiction Program. Troopers Lemery and Davis were recently involved in an investigation of a drug trafficking organization whose members routinely drove vehicles loaded with cocaine hydrochloride from Texas to Florida, where the cocaine was later distributed. As a direct result of the troopers' efforts, the Drug Enforcement Administration was able to arrest three members of this organization.

On February 16, 2005, at 2:30 a.m., Troopers Lemery and Davis were operating stationary radar on Interstate 75 north of the Florida Turnpike when they noticed a 1996 Nissan Quest minivan driving South with no operating tag lights. During a subsequent traffic stop Troopers Lemery and Davis conducted themselves professionally and courteously, yet maintained a keen sense of perception that allowed them to detect the occupants' attempt at deception. Indeed, Trooper Davis' canine, Jewels, later confirmed their suspicions. Based on the canine alert, Trooper Lemery and Davis meticulously examined the minivan and located 11 packages containing 6.935 kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride worth approximately \$200,000 secreted in the minivan's air conditioning system. Troopers immediately notified Drug Enforcement Administration agents, who later obtained invaluable evidence.

During the pretrial stage it became clear that Troopers Lemery and Davis would be key witnesses in the United States' case. Defense attorneys indicated that they intended to contest the traffic stop because they believed the Troopers illegally profiled drivers and "overstated" canine alerts. Accordingly, it was necessary for me to obtain and analyze information about the traffic stops that Troopers Lemery and Davis

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conducted during the last few years. In addition to expeditiously providing me that information, Troopers Lemery and Davis also provided me a flawless analysis of the data that allowed me to persuade defense counsel that such a motion would not succeed. Simply put, their work, including the traffic stop in this case, was flawless.

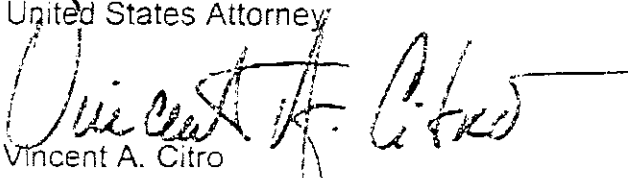
One of the vehicle's occupants, Ricardo Cabrera-Torres, persisted in his not guilty plea and wanted a trial, which concluded this past week. Although Troopers Lemery and Davis had several responsibilities to attend to, they made themselves available to me 24 hours a day to prepare for trial. On several occasions I contacted them at home or shortly after they got off shift. Troopers Lemery and Davis made themselves available each and every time I needed them, no matter how late in the night or inconvenient to their schedule. At trial, Troopers Lemery and Davis were the first witnesses to testify. During their testimony, Troopers Lemery and Davis established a rapport with the jury while clearly and concisely explaining their pedigree and roles in the investigation. Their actions in this case, including court testimony, were instrumental in obtaining a conviction.

Troopers Lemery and Davis are a credit to your agency and an asset in the law enforcement efforts in Florida. In short, they are outstanding officers and representatives of the Florida Highway Patrol. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

PAUL I. PEREZ
United States Attorney

By:


Vincent A. Citro
Assistant United States Attorney

- c. Lieutenant Tommy Moore
Contraband Interdiction Program Coordinator
Florida Highway Patrol

Captain G.S. Lamont
Florida Highway Patrol

Acting Resident Agent in Charge Robert Riley
Drug Enforcement Administration
Gainesville Resident Office